

## CHAPTER 12 — MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION AND EQUIPMENT REGULATION

### SAFETY INSPECTION REQUIRED

You must have a certificate of inspection to register your vehicle (refer to the list of exceptions in this chapter). The certificate proves your vehicle has passed a safety inspection. The certificate is good for 60 days.

### WHERE CAN I HAVE MY VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTED?

Vehicles may be safety inspected at any licensed inspection station. Authorized stations will display the sign shown at right.



Your vehicle safety inspection is good for two registration years, unless you sell the vehicle. “Even” model year vehicles must be inspected when their registration expires during “even” calendar years.

“Odd” model year vehicles must be inspected when their registration expires during “odd” calendar years. The renewal notice you receive from the department will tell you if your vehicle needs to have a safety inspection. Each official inspection station may charge an inspection fee not to exceed \$12 (or up to \$10 for a motorcycle inspection).

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO PASS THE SAFETY INSPECTION

**BRAKES** — Brakes must be in good working order.

**HEADLIGHTS** — Your vehicle must have at least two white headlights.

**TAILLIGHTS** — Your vehicle must have at least two red taillights and reflectors that other drivers can see from 500 feet.

**SIGNALING DEVICES** — Your vehicle must have turn signals and brake lights as originally installed by the manufacturer.

**STEERING MECHANISM** — Your vehicle’s steering mechanism must not have too much play or binding.

**TIRES AND WHEELS** — You must not have bald or mismatched tires on your vehicle.

**SAFETY GLASS** — If your vehicle was made after January 1, 1936, it must have safety glass in all windows.

**WINDSHIELD** — The viewing area of your windshield may not be badly broken.

**VISION REDUCING MATERIAL** — Your vehicle must not have anything on the windshield that will reduce your visibility, except labels and stickers required by law or ordinance, and informational signs on the upper portion of the windshield normally tinted by windshield manufacturers.

**WINDSHIELD WIPERS** — Your vehicle’s windshield wipers must work.

**SEAT BELTS** — If your passenger car was made after June 30, 1964, it must have two sets of seat belts in the front seat.

**HORN** — Your vehicle must have a horn that other drivers and pedestrians can hear.

**EXHAUST SYSTEM** — Your vehicle must have an attached exhaust pipe, muffler and tailpipe.

**MIRRORS** — If your vehicle was made after 1967, it must have an inside and an outside rearview mirror.

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES** — If your vehicle was made after 1967 and does not have a diesel motor, it must have air pollution control devices. These pollution control devices must be as originally installed by the manufacturer.

**FUEL SYSTEM** — The fuel system, including all lines, hoses, connections, and tank(s), must be firmly attached and must not leak.

**MUD FLAPS** — Trucks without rear fenders, registered for over 24,000 pounds, must have mud flaps.

**BUMPERS** — Bumpers on passenger vehicles may not exceed 22 inches above the ground when measured at the highest point. Commercial vehicle bumper heights are determined by the gross vehicle weight rating.

## **EXCEPTIONS TO THE SAFETY INSPECTION REQUIREMENT**

The following types of vehicles are exempt from the safety inspection requirement:

- New motor vehicles during the model year of the vehicle, and the first annual renewal the following year;
- All trailers;
- Motor vehicles engaged in interstate commerce and registered with the Missouri Department of Transportation;
- Motor vehicles that display historic plates;
- Motor vehicles sold for junk, salvage, or rebuilding;
- Motor vehicles sold from dealer to dealer; and
- Low speed vehicles as defined in Section 304.029, RSMo.

## **OTHER EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY LAW**

In addition to the equipment needed to pass the safety inspection, Missouri law requires the following equipment:

**LICENSE (REGISTRATION) PLATES** — Missouri law requires that license plates be securely fastened to a vehicle, and that all parts of the plates be visible and clean for view or inspection by any law enforcement entity. If you have frames around your license plates, the Missouri State Highway Patrol reminds you that the frames must not cover any part of the plates.

If the department gives you two plates, you must place one on the front and one on the back of your vehicle.

If you have a trailer or a motorcycle, you will only receive one plate, which must be on the back of your vehicle.

If you have a truck licensed in excess of 12,000 pounds, you will only receive one plate, which must be placed on the front of the truck. If you want a second plate, it must be specifically requested. You must place the original plate on the front of your truck and if a second plate is issued, it must be placed on the rear of the truck.

**LICENSE PLATE LIGHT** — Your vehicle must have a white light shining on the rear license plate so the plate can be seen from 50 feet.

**PROJECTIONS** — You need special equipment if something in your vehicle overhangs the rear by more than 5 feet. During the day, the end of the projection must have a red flag or cloth that is at least 16" square. The end of the projection must have a red light from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.

**TOWLINES** — When you are towing another vehicle, your towline must keep the vehicles within 15 feet of each other. From ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise, both vehicles must have lights on.

**SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGN** — From sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, any vehicle moving 25 mph or slower must have a “slow moving vehicle” sign (refer to Chapter 3). The sign must be on the rear of the vehicle, near the middle and 4 feet or more above the road. The sign must be clean and reflective.

**STUDED SNOW TIRES** — Your vehicle may have studded snow tires only from November 1 to April 1.

**WINDOW TINTING** — Tinting or sun-screening material is permitted on side and rear windows (front door windows at no more than 65% light blockage).

## **EMISSIONS INSPECTIONS**

Motorists residing in St. Louis City and the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson are also required to have emissions inspections, if applicable.

- The emissions inspection is a two-year inspection. “Even” model year vehicles with registrations expiring in “even” years must be inspected during “even” calendar years. “Odd” model year vehicles with registrations expiring in “odd” years must be inspected during “odd” calendar years.

All vehicles must be emissions inspected at the time of sale regardless of the model year (refer to the list of exceptions in this chapter). New motor vehicles, and the first retail sale of titled motor vehicles during the model year of the vehicle and the following year are exempt from the inspection provided the odometer reading is less than 6,000 miles at the time of the sale.

## **EXCEPTIONS TO THE EMISSIONS INSPECTION REQUIREMENT**

The following vehicles are exempt:

- New motor vehicles (not previously titled) during the model year of the vehicle and first annual renewal the following year;
- Motor vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 8,500 pounds;
- Motorcycles, dirt bikes, and motortricycles;
- Model year vehicles 26 years or older;
- School buses;
- Diesel powered vehicles;
- Motor vehicles registered in one of the affected areas listed above but based and operated outside the area;
- Motor vehicles that display "historic plates"; and
- Gasoline powered low speed vehicles in Franklin County only.

For more information on vehicle emissions inspections, please call 1-888-748-1AIR, or visit the Department of Natural Resources web site at [www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov) and look for the Gateway Clean Air Program.

***VEHICLE INSPECTION IS  
IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT MAY  
DETECT A WORN OR BROKEN  
VEHICLE PART THAT COULD  
CAUSE AN ACCIDENT!***